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featuring UD

Story ideas for print and broadcast media

Oct. 7, 1988

BODY LANGUAGE DURING PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES GIVES NON-VERBAL HINTS TO VOTERS

Body language doesn't lie.

According to a University of Dayton psychology professor, non-verbal signs, such as facial expressions and gesturing, may tell voters more about a candidate than the words he utters.

"Michael Dukakis didn't have a beaming facial expression (during the first presidential debate), but he had a more pleasant facial expression than George Bush," said Charles Kimble, a UD psychology professor who analyzed the debate for the Boston Herald. "Bush showed a frowning face at times during the debate."

The candidates have "very different" styles. "Bush is more expansive in his gesturing while Dukakis is more controlled," Kimble said. "That comes across in the image they project, too."

In the upcoming debate, Kimble predicts that Dukakis "will be trying to present himself as warmer and more personal rather than the smartest kid in the class," while Bush will "want to come across as strong and not a wimp." Since eye contact and gesturing help people communicate, "Bush's range of expressiveness may help him," Kimble said.

For media interviews, contact Charles Kimble at (513) 229-2168.

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON STUDENTS PLAN CAMPUS DEBATE

The presidential candidates have debated once and plan to meet again, the vice presidential candidates have had their turn at the podium and now University of Dayton students will take center stage to thrash out the issues involved in November's general election.

Three representatives of College Democrats/Students for Dukakis will face three representatives of College Republicans/Students for Bush in a debate on Monday, Oct. 24 at 7:30 p.m. in O'Leary Auditorium in Miriam Hall on campus. Four panelists will pose the questions, and the moderator will be Rick Ruffolo, executive vice president of the UD Student Government Association.

The event, which is sponsored by the Student Government Association, is free and open to the public. For more information, call 229-4444.



The University of Dayton